Message Text

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SUBJECT: CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: JUSTIFICATION FOR

SPECIAL SUBSIDY

REF: STATE 269566

1. QUOTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF ADDENDUM TO DOCUMENT BC-D(76)21, PART I, DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1976, FOR THE JUSTIFICATION OF A SPECIAL SUBSIDY UNDER CHAPTER XIIIC

BEGIN TEXT: ON 25TH OCTOBER 1976, THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S INTENTION TO PROPOSE AN ADDITIONAL ITEM, UNDER CHAPTER XIII OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES-1977 FOR A SUBSIDY TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION IN PARIS.

2. THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION WAS CREATED IN 1954, TO PROMOTE THE FULFILMENT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. IT COMPRISES NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS IN ALL THE NATO COUNTRIES. THESE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ARE WORKING, GENERALLY WITH VERY LIMITED FUNDS, TO CREATE AND FOSTER A CURRENT OF OPINION FAVOURABLE TO THE ALLIANCE AND TO NATO. THEIR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER AND THE ARRANGEMENT OF LECTURES, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS ETC. AND ESTABLISHING WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS. THE ASSOCIATION ALSO ARRANGES SUMMER CAMPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, CONFERENCES TO STUDY PARTICULAR THEMES AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE ATLANTIC ASSOCICATION OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS.

3. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION IS

LOCATED IN PARIS AND COMPRISES A PART-TIME SECRETARY GENERAL, A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WHO IS PAID NATIONALLY AND A FULL-TIME SECRETARY. THE HEADQUARTERS IS FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. INFLATION HAS PROGRESSIVELY INCREASED THE COSTS OF THE HEADQUARTERS AND AT THE SAME TIME REDUCED THE VALUE IN REAL TERMS OF THE OPERATING FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. AS A RESULT, THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY CAN MAKE, ALTHOUGH INCREASED BY 10 PERCENT IN 1975, NO LONGER COVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE HEADQUARTERS.

- 4. THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION ACTIVELY SUPPORTS THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION AND ITS MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN CULTURAL AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES. THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST REGRETTABLE, AND AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF NATO, IF THE ASSOCIATION WERE TO BE COMPELLED TO CURTAIL OR CEASE ITS ACTIVITIES FOR LACK OF FUNDS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE PROPOSED THAT A GRANT BE MADE TOWARDS THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE ASSOCIATION'S HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS. THE AMOUNT NEEDED IN 1977 IS B. FR. 500.000 AND IT IS PROPOSED THAT THIS AMOUNT BE IMPUTED TO A NEW SUB-ITEM OF CHAPTER XIII SPECIAL SUBSIDIES. B. FR. 200.000 OF THIS SUBSIDY CAN BE OFFSET BY REDUCING THE CREDIT REQUESTED FOR CHAPTER IV BY THAT AMOUNT. THE REMAINING B.FR. 300.000 HAS BEEN COVERED BY REDUCTIONS ELSEWHERE IN THE BUDGET ESTIMATES.
- 5. THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO:
 (A) APPROVE THE CREATION OF SUB-ITEM 13.200 GRANT
 TO THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION AND THE
 IMPUTATION OF B. FR. 500.000 THERETO IN THE 1977
 BUDGET ESTIMATES;
- (B) TO INCLUDE, IN ITS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL:

 (I) A SPECIFIC INVITATION TO APPROVE THE CREDIT FOR THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF B. FR. 500.000 AS AN ANNUAL GRANT TOWARDS ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES;
- (II) AN ASSURANCE THAT THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL PERIODICALLY VERIFY THE CONTINUING NEED FOR THE GRANT;

- (C) NOTE THAT B. FR.200.000 OF THE CREDIT PROPOSED MAY BE FOUND BY REDUCING CHAPTER IV BY THAT AMOUNT.
- 6. THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED FOR DISCUSSION BY THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE ON 8TH NOVEMBER 1976. END TEST.
- 2. AT TODAY'S MEETING US REP WILL RESERVE PENDING INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH WOULD BE APPRECIATED ASAP.STREATOR

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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